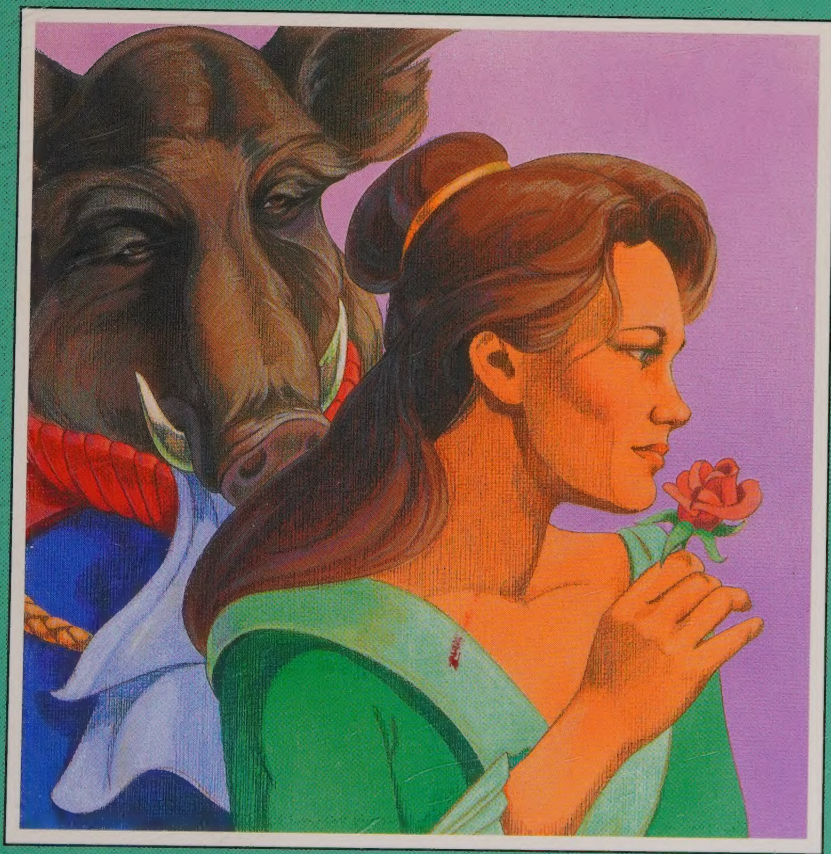


# Beauty and the Beast



Favorite Fairy Tales





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# Beauty and the Beast



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here once was a very rich man who had six children—three daughters and three sons. After a lifetime of good luck, the man suddenly fell upon hard times. His house burned down, his ships sank at sea, and his business partner ran off with all his money.

He and his children were forced to move into a small cottage in the country, where they managed to live on food they raised themselves. His two oldest daughters were very unhappy with this change, but the youngest, named Beauty, tried to make their new life as comfortable as possible.

One day the man heard that one of his ships had sailed safely into harbor. He decided to go there to see this for himself, though it was a long ride.









his children all asked their father to bring back expensive presents. But Beauty asked only for her father's safe return.

"Isn't there anything I can bring you, Beauty?" asked her father.

"If you see one, I would like to have a rose," said Beauty, for she missed the beautiful gardens around their old home.

Beauty's father reached the town safely, only to find that his ship had been robbed, and he was now poorer than before. Making his way back home through a thick forest, the unlucky man was lost in a terrible snowstorm.

Suddenly, up ahead, he saw a row of flowering trees and at the same time felt warm air on his face!









he man had discovered an enchanted castle. He explored the wondrous gardens, where no snow had fallen. When he knocked at the castle door, no one answered. The man went in anyway.

He found a cheerful little room with a table of fresh food waiting for him. He ate hungrily, then fell asleep in front of the fire.

The next morning, there was still no sign of anyone, so the man got ready to leave. On his way through the gardens, he picked a rose for Beauty. Suddenly, an ugly Beast appeared, as if by magic! "So this is how you thank me? I feed and shelter you, and then you steal from me?" said the Beast.

The man begged for his life, explaining that the rose was for one of his daughters.









he Beast said that he would not kill the man but would accept one of his daughters instead.

He promised to treat her kindly if she would come to live with him.

The man returned home and told his children what had happened. All six agreed that since Beauty's rose had started the trouble, she must be the one to go. The very next day, she rode away bravely with her father.

Again, they found no one in the castle, and again, supper was set on the table. But this time, the Beast appeared as they finished eating. Beauty was very frightened by the Beast's terrible face, but he spoke to her gently, asking if she would stay with him in order to save her father's life.









Beauty told the Beast that she would stay. So her father left her there, though it broke his heart, and she made the Beast's castle her home. She had her own big room with mirrors for walls and a clock that woke her by calling her name. She spent her days alone, exploring the endless wonders of the enchanted castle.

Every night, she sat down to dinner with the Beast. He was quite fierce-looking, but his voice was quiet and gentle, and he always spoke to Beauty kindly. Soon, she was no longer afraid of him, and found herself growing more and more fond of him.

In fact, she began to look forward to their quiet evenings together.







**A**fter dinner, they would walk through the beautiful gardens, and talk of many things. But no matter what they spoke of, the Beast asked Beauty the same questions every night.

“Am I very ugly?” he asked her.

“Yes, Beast, you are,” she would always answer.  
“But I do like you anyway.”

“Then will you marry me, Beauty?” he would ask.

“Oh, Beast, please do not ask me this question,” she would plead.





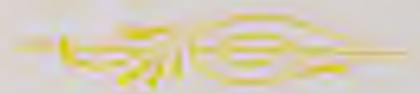




Beauty was happy in the magical castle, and she had grown very fond of the Beast. But she never stopped missing her own home, her brothers and sisters, and her loving father.

One night in the garden she asked the Beast to let her go home for a visit. He made her promise to come back in two months and gave her two magical trunks to fill with presents for her family. No matter how much she packed, the trunks were never full.

Then he gave her a ring with a large jewel in it and told her it would take her home and bring her back. All she had to do was turn it on her finger, and she would be home the next day!









he next morning, Beauty awoke to the sound of her father's voice! She was home, in her own bed. Her family was very happy to see her. Her father's luck had finally returned, and his family was rich once more.

As the weeks passed, Beauty missed the Beast's castle where she had been so happy. But most of all, she missed the Beast. She spent hours thinking of their long talks at dinnertime, and of their evening strolls through the beautiful gardens.

Beauty found that she was growing restless among her family, but she was afraid to tell them that she wanted to leave. She did not want to break her father's heart again.



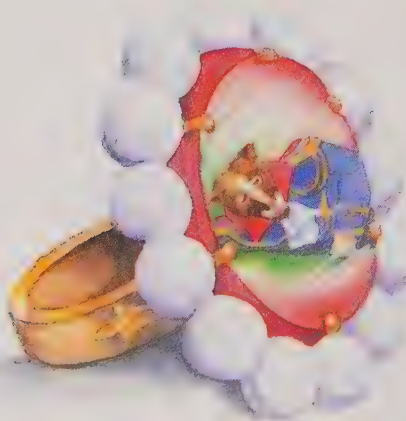




ne night she put the magic ring on her finger and looked into the jewel. There she saw the Beast, lying in his garden. He seemed to be dying!

Beauty turned the ring on her finger like before and was suddenly by the side of the Beast. He was so weak he couldn't speak. She lifted his head and he opened his eyes to look at her one last time.

"Oh, please do not die, gentle Beast!" cried Beauty.  
"I never knew it before, but I love you!"







**A**t Beauty's words, there was a sudden flash of light, and the Beast leaped up. Beauty saw that her ugly friend had changed into a handsome prince! Beauty's love had freed the prince from a terrible spell. Since the two already loved each other, they were married and lived happily ever after in the enchanted castle.



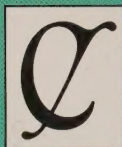












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